

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Satur day, February 15. 1706.

NOthing but Union, Union ! says the Publisher of this, you will fire all the Town with the Union, they want a little Diversion, they want something about the rest of the World, how Affairs go abroad, and Affairs at home, who and who are together, and what is a doing in the World, which seems to yield Subject enough to speak of ?

'Tis true, Gentlemen, the Affairs of the World are according to their constant Nature, whirling about, now up, then down, full of Fluxes and Refluxes, certain Uncertainties, and uncertain Certainties ; and if there were an Observer to every Stage of Action, they might find Employment enough to state, represent and remark the Actions, Follies and Crimes of Men.

Here we have Victory without Forces,

there Forces without Victory ; *Spain*, like the Ocean, wavers to day to *France*, to morrow to *Austria* ; *Madrid* changes Masters twice in a Moon ; King *Charles* is like to gain his Country but by Inches, and at last must owe it wholly to *English* and *Dutch* Assistance.

The Empire is an Emblem of vast Confusions, and 'tis the only Body, that seems to me to stand in Spight of Scripture Maxims, (*Viz.*) *That a Kingdom divided against it self, &c.* The Councils on that side the World are the most unaccountable Things, that ever were heard of ; where the Princes are rich enough and strong enough, and can form Armies sufficient to push the *French* quite out of *Alsace*, and force him to quit the Banks of the *Rhine* ; there they suffer themselves to be ravag'd, insulted, their

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Magazines and Artillery to be taken, their Lines to be forc'd, and what not ; as last Summer at the Siege of *Hagenau*, where if the Victory at *Ramellies* had not oblig'd the *French* to make strong Detachments from the *Rhine*, all that side had been ruin'd, and neither the *Palatinate* or *Hessian* Troops could have march'd for *Italy* at all.

Thus the Battle at *Ramellies* made the Battle at *Turin*, and Victory here made way for Victory there ; the Empire is relieved, defended, and made victorious, not by their own Conduct, but by the disastrous Circumstances of the Enemies, *No Thanks to Vienna for that*.

On the other hand, what shall we say to *Hungaria*, where the same preposterous Conduct amazes the whole World——

Where the Emperor cannot beat them, and yet won't make Peace with them ; he flies before their Troops, and yet flies from their Submissions too ; was ever such State Management in the World ? the *Hungarians* take *Gran*, repossess *Transylvania*, beat the Imperialists off from *Cassovia*, ravage *Austria*, insult *Vienna*, and yet no Mediation of Ambassadors, no Proposals of Accommodation can reach to put a Stop to these Miseries.

In all Ages of the World, Princes have thought fit, when their Hands could no more carry on the War, to let their Ears be open to treat of Peace, and the Councils, that manange this Part, are therefore unaccountably mysterious, at least to me.

I know, 'tis alledg'd, the Emperor depends on the Allies to carry every thing on, not for him only, but almost without him ; and therefore leaves the Care of all to apply himself to the *Hungarian* War, in which he doubts not to weary the People out, and force them by the Calamities of their Country to yield to him at last.

I do not say, the Court at *Vienna* goes upon this Foundation ; but I do say, if they act on that Foot, they carry their Dependence upon the Allies a great deal too far, and the Injury done to the Allies is irreparable.

Besides, I think, 'tis not impolitic only, but ungrateful, to neglect the Duty of an Ally on a Presumption, that the Necessity of the other Branches will oblige them to supply the Deficiency.

'Tis in this Case, as I have observ'd in most nice Articles of publick Management, there's equal Difficulty to manage our Friends, as to fight our Enemies ; confederated Nations can never long go on successfully, where every Part does not with equal Alacrity assist in bearing the common Burthen.

England and *Holland* have in this a very great Hardship, that they are fain to bear their own Burthen and others too——

Thus last Year, I believe, I may say, the *Italian* Affair, on which so much depended, and in which the *French* receiv'd so sensible a Blow, had come to nothing, but for the Money borrow'd here and in *Holland*, and the Troops sent from hence to form the Army there, I mean, the *Hessians*, *Prussians*, and *Palatinate* Troops.

'Tis true, the *Hessians* were fairly beaten by the Count *De Medavi* ; but 'tis as true, had there been no *Hessians* to have been beaten, the Count *De Medavi* had been at *Turin* with his Army, which would have made them too strong to have been beaten off, and that City must have fallen of Course.

Thus on the Shoulders of the *English* and *Dutch* have lain the whole Burthen of the War, and the Empire, like a vast unweildy Body, has hardly been active in its own proper Defence.

And yet all this while rejects Offers of Peace, Treaties, and Mediation with the *Hungarian*——This is the unaccountable Piece of Politicks, which I complain of ; and this alone seems to make the Councils on that side of the World mysterious.

If the *Hungarians* rejected Accommodations, or refused to submit to the Mediation of others, indeed they would be inexcusable, and I have sometimes thought they have been too obstinate that way, particularly when Prince *Ragotski* insisted on being declared Prince of *Transylvania*, which look'd like a Claim beyond the Pretence, *Viz.* Of taking up Arms for Liberty ; but if that Prince desires a Treaty, and offers to accept of a Mediation, I confess, it seems to take off that Blame ; for accepting a Mediation, is like two Persons at Law, signing Bonds of Arbitration, and he that is willing to do so, makes others judge of the Justice of his Claim,

Claim, not himself; and of such 'tis very seldom but they act fairly.

While the Court at *Vienna* rejects a Reference, refuses Mediation or Arbitration, they cannot be said to desire Peace. Now 'tis not to me in this Discourse, why the Emperor refuses this, but the Mystery lies

then in the Military Part; Why he does not beat the *Hungarians*? Why he suffers his Troops to want Recruits, his Armies to want Provisions, his Frontier Cities to want Garrisons, and his Magazines to want Stores, and yet at the same time to reject Peace?

MISCELLANEA.

Mr. REVIEW.

YOU were used very earnestly to argue against the new Projects for the Poor, and some of your Objections were weighty enough on that Subject. Pray, how came you to be so silent now, when the Bill is gone so far, as to be pass'd in the Committee of the House of Commons, and that Matter like to be concluded past all Remedy; it is desir'd, you would give the World some Account of your Opinion on that Head in Time, in which you will oblige a great many of the Well-wishers to the Publick Good, and among them

Your Friend and Servant,

D. L.

Methinks any Man, that by the Subject and Manner of these Papers, must needs know, where the Author has been for several Months, should never ask such a Question as this; but since some People will ask Questions they know not how, they must be content to be be answer'd, as the Circumstance guides, whether it be to their liking or no.

Among the various Reasons therefore, why the Author of this has not spoken against the Bill for Settlement and Employment of the Poor, which is now depending before the House of Commons; these are some,

1. That he does not care to come into the List of *Solomon's Fools*, who judge of a Matter, before they hear it.

2. Because he could not believe it to be the same Bill, that was before the House the last Session; because the Committee has gone thorough it, and seem inclin'd to pass it.

3. Because he hopes, Sir *H. M.* the Chair-man of the Committee, and Promoter, if not Contriver of this Bill, would not, in his abundant Regard to the Poor, offer to the House any of the fatal Projects, which the World has formerly seen under the same or like Title,

But if the Gentleman, who sends this Letter, will please to let the Author know, what are the Contents of the Bill now depending about the Poor, he shall not fail to have it spoken to in these Papers, as far as consists with the Respect, which in good Manners ought to be shown to an Affair, under the Cognizance of so great an Assembly.

In the mean time, I cannot but recommend it to all Gentlemen, whom it may concern to examine, how erecting Workhouses and Manufactures in every Parish, transposing, contracting, invading the settled Manufactures of *England*, can be a Benefit to the whole; since on the due Circulation of Trade, depends almost as many Families, as on the immediate Operation of the Goods made; of which tho' I have formerly said something, yet on this Occasion I must beg leave to say more.

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